

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A process for preparing a fluorine-containing elastomer vulcanizable by peroxide vulcanization, which is a batch copolymerization process conducted under conditions that the reduced temperature of the critical constant is at least 0.95 and the reduced pressure of the critical constant is at least 0.80 wherein the reduced temperature and the reduced pressure are calculated using the Peng-Robinson formula from the critical temperature, the critical pressure and the composition ratio of each of the monomers in the gaseous phase in the reaction vessel,

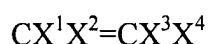
wherein ~~ethylenically unsaturated compounds containing~~ monomers comprising at least one fluoroolefin are copolymerized in the presence of water, an emulsifier and a compound having the formula: $R_f^1 \cdot I_x$ wherein R_f^1 is a saturated or unsaturated fluorohydrocarbon or chlorofluorohydrocarbon group having 1 to 16 carbon atoms, and x is the number of bonds of R_f^1 and an integer of 1 to 4.

2. (currently amended): The process for preparing the fluorine-containing elastomer vulcanizable by peroxide vulcanization of Claim 1, wherein the inner pressure of the vessel during the polymerization is at least 3 MPa.

3. (currently amended): The process for preparing the fluorine-containing elastomer vulcanizable by peroxide vulcanization of Claim 1, wherein the number of particles of the

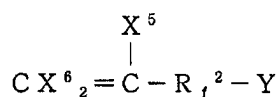
fluorine-containing elastomer is at least 5×10^{13} per 1 g of water when the polymerization is finished.

4. (currently amended): The process for preparing the fluorine-containing elastomer vulcanizable by peroxide vulcanization of Claim 1, wherein the fluoroolefin is a compound having the formula:



wherein X^1 to X^3 are each a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom, and X^4 is a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a carboxyl group, an alkyl group having 1 to 9 carbon atoms in which a part or all of the hydrogen atoms are substituted by fluorine atom and which may include an ether bonding oxygen atom, or an alkoxyl group having 1 to 9 carbon atoms in which a part or all of the hydrogen atoms are substituted by fluorine atom and which may include an ether bonding oxygen atom, and wherein the fluoroolefin contains at least one fluorine atom.

5. (currently amended): The process for preparing the fluorine-containing elastomer vulcanizable by peroxide vulcanization of Claim 1, wherein the fluoroolefin contains a compound selected from the group consisting of hexafluoropropylene, tetrafluoroethylene, trifluoroethylene, pentafluoropropylene, vinyl fluoride, hexafluoroisobutene, perfluoro(alkyl vinyl ethers), and polyfluorodienes, or wherein the fluoroolefin contains ~~and~~ a compound having the following formula:



wherein Y is -CH₂I, -OH, -COOH, -SO₂F, -SO₃M in which M is hydrogen, NH₄ group or an alkali metal, a carboxylic acid salt, a carboxylic ester group, an epoxy group, a nitrile group or an iodine atom, X⁵ and X⁶ are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom or a fluorine atom, R_f² is a bivalent fluorine-containing alkylene group having 0 to 40 carbon atoms which may include an ether bonding oxygen atom.

6. (currently amended): A fluorine-containing elastomer vulcanizable by peroxide vulcanization which is obtained by the preparation process of Claim 1 and has a Mooney viscosity of at least 30 at 100°C.

7.-9. (canceled).